

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1095

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Steven Pearl for his outstanding accomplishments during his stellar basketball career.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has been blessed by a bounty of tremendous athletes and championship athletic teams, both amateur and professional, who have proudly represented the citizens of this State as honorable competitors; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary athlete is University of Tennessee (UT) Volunteer basketball player Steven Pearl, whose indelible accomplishments and contributions to the sport of basketball are clearly deserving of recognition by this legislative body; and

WHEREAS, beginning his basketball career at Nicolet High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he was a highly touted forward who led his team to three conference championships; and

WHEREAS, after his father accepted the head basketball coaching position at UT, Steven Pearl moved to Knoxville his senior year with his parents, Bruce Pearl and Kim Pearl; and

WHEREAS, he starred as an All-State and *All-PrepXtra* basketball player for West High School, averaging 21.3 points, 8.8 rebounds, and 2.6 assists per game, and he posted a forty-three percent field goal average in his final prep season; and

WHEREAS, after his senior year at West High School, he was selected as a member of the 2006 USA Maccabi Games team, helping lead the team to a gold medal in Sydney, Australia; and

WHEREAS, earning a spot on the UT Volunteer basketball roster, Steven Pearl practiced with the team, gaining extensive experience while redshirting during the 2006-2007 season; and

WHEREAS, during his redshirt freshman season, he played in nineteen games, including three NCAA tournament games, and finished the season with a 45.5 percent field goal percentage; and

WHEREAS, as a sophomore, Steven Pearl played a career high number of minutes during seventeen games, providing depth in the post as a 6'5" power forward; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2009, Mr. Pearl played on the Maccabi USA Open Mens' basketball team at the eighteenth World Maccabiah Games held in Israel. Coached by Bruce Pearl, the squad went 5-1 and won the gold medal while outscoring opponents by 35.8 points per game; and

WHEREAS, during the 2009-2010 basketball season, Steven Pearl had his best year as a junior forward for the Volunteers, carving out a niche for himself as an excellent defender and one of UT's strongest interior players; and

WHEREAS, playing 339 minutes in thirty-one games, Steven Pearl was an essential player in one of the Volunteers' most memorable basketball seasons; and

WHEREAS, through his exceptional play, hard work, and dedication, he served as an inspiration to his teammates while helping UT (28-9, 11-5) finish with the school's first-ever NCAA Elite Eight appearance and a #9 final ranking in both the Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today Coaches polls; and

WHEREAS, with his crafty play, stalwart determination, indomitable character, and infectious smile, Steven Pearl has endeared himself to the thousands of UT Volunteer fans throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, not only having a remarkable basketball knowledge, Steven Pearl has also excelled in the classroom while pursuing a degree in business; he was recognized as a member

of the 2007 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Freshman Academic Honor Roll and as a member of the 2008 SEC Winter Academic Honor Roll; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Steven Pearl is most appreciative of the love and support of his biggest fans, his father, Bruce Pearl, and his mother, Kim Pearl; and

WHEREAS, Steven Pearl, a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies dedication and leadership, and he is admired by his fellow Tennesseans for his tireless efforts to excel, always guided by solid principles and high standards, whether in the athletic arena or in the actions of his daily life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Steven Pearl for his many accomplishments during his stellar basketball career, commend him for his substantial legacy as an athlete, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.